



**WELCOME TO THE  
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BIG FLATS  
Sunday Morning Worship  
June 4, 2023 at 10:30 AM**

**TRINITY SUNDAY**

Joys, Concerns, and Announcements

Welcome

*(Streaming to Facebook here)*

Prelude

**GATHERING <sup>i</sup>**

**\* CALL TO WORSHIP**

Praise be to God, who has brought us here this day.

**Praise and thanks to God for all the blessings we have received.**

What joy we have in God's presence!

**What peace is brought to us in God's house!**

This is truly the day that the Lord has made!

**Let us rejoice and be glad in it! AMEN.**

**\* OPENING PRAYER**

**Open our hearts and our spirits to hear your healing words of peace and love, O God. Help us be the people of service and justice that you have called us to be. Make us ready to heal rather than harm; to serve rather than sever. Give us hearts of joy and justice, for we offer this prayer in Jesus' Name. AMEN.**

**\* OPENING HYMN:** *Holy God, We Praise Your Name*

GTG #4

1 Holy God, we praise your name;  
Lord of all, we bow before you.  
All on earth your scepter claim;  
all in heaven above adore you.  
Infinite your vast domain,  
everlasting is your reign.

2 Hark! The glad celestial hymn  
angel choirs above are raising;  
cherubim and seraphim,  
in unceasing chorus praising,  
fill the heavens with sweet accord:  
"Holy, holy, holy Lord!"

3 All apostles join the strain  
as your sacred name they hallow;  
prophets swell the glad refrain,  
and the blessed martyrs follow,  
and from morn to set of sun,  
through the church the song goes on.

4 Holy Father, Holy Son,  
Holy Spirit: three we name you,  
while in essence only one;  
undivided God we claim you,  
and adoring, bend the knee  
while we own the mystery.

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

**Call to Confession:** We come to worship to praise God, but also we remember our own faults and problems. Let us now turn to God in confession, first silently and then together.<sup>ii</sup>

**Moment of Silence for Personal Confession**

**Prayer of Confession:** Lord, you know we are in the midst of what seems to be a never-ending contentious season in our country. The shouts of the partisan communities often deafen us to the needs of those around us. Help us remember that you have called us to service, to ministries of hope and healing. Forgive us when we get so caught up in the chaos that we forget your presence. Give us courage and strength to truly serve you by serving your people. For we ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

\* Indicates Standing is Optional

**Assurance of Pardon:** Beloved of the Lord, you are healed and forgiven. You are called to go forth in compassionate ministry to help others in need. Know that God always goes with you on your journeys into ministry. Be at peace. AMEN.

**\* *Glory be to the Father***      *Gloria Patri*

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen. Amen.**

**ANTHEM**      *The Tallis Canon*

Thomas Tallis, Arr. by Douglas E. Wagner

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Today, Lord, we will gather at the table, to receive the blessings of salvation; gifts that are given to transform our lives from quiet isolation to joyful service. We have come here from various struggles and times of confusion. We have come seeking restoration and healing; and you have given both to us. You have reminded us again of the blessings of healing love for all people represented in the bread and the cup in which we partake. As we have previously offered prayers for many people and situations near and dear to us, help us also remember that we are in prayer for ourselves, for strengthening, healing, encouragement, peace. Give us spirits of confidence in your presence that we might be part of the great healing and justice ministries you have set before us. These things we ask in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

## **Invitation to the Offering**

The first words of the Bible are about God's own generosity. God gave us the gifts of a beautiful creation, our home, the good green earth and the animals that live here with us. On this spring morning, we come together to thank God and to offer our gifts so that the ministry of this church will continue to grow and be a blessing to the world. Let us consider how we can combine our gifts and offer them to God in gratitude and praise.<sup>iii</sup>

## ***A Moment of Silence – Offertory***

### **Offering Prayer**

O God, creator of all that we have and all that we are,  
no one can utter all your mighty deeds  
or declare all your praise.  
Yet accept these gifts, we pray,  
both as tools of the work of the gospel  
and as signs of our pledge to be coworkers  
in Christ's name. Amen.<sup>iv</sup>

### **Doxology**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise him, all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heavenly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

## **THE WORD**

### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Gracious God, give us humble, teachable, and obedient hearts, that we may receive what you have revealed, and do what you have commanded. Amen.<sup>v</sup>

### **Psalm 147:1-11**<sup>vi</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Praise the LORD!  
How good it is to sing praises to our God;  
for he is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting.  
<sup>2</sup> The LORD builds up Jerusalem;

Pew Bible, OT, pg. 582

he gathers the outcasts of Israel.

<sup>3</sup> He heals the brokenhearted,  
and binds up their wounds.

<sup>4</sup> He determines the number of the stars;

\* Indicates Standing is Optional

he gives to all of them their names.

<sup>5</sup> Great is our Lord, and abundant in power;  
his understanding is beyond measure.

<sup>6</sup> The LORD lifts up the downtrodden;  
he casts the wicked to the ground.

<sup>7</sup> Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving;  
make melody to our God on the lyre.

<sup>8</sup> He covers the heavens with clouds,

prepares rain for the earth,  
makes grass grow on the hills.

<sup>9</sup> He gives to the animals their food,  
and to the young ravens when they cry.

<sup>10</sup> His delight is not in the strength of the horse,  
nor his pleasure in the speed of a runner;

<sup>11</sup> but the LORD takes pleasure in those who fear him,  
in those who hope in his steadfast love.

### Philippians 4:1-14

Pew Bible, NT, pp. 198-199

<sup>1</sup> Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

<sup>2</sup> I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. <sup>3</sup> Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

<sup>4</sup> Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup> Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup> Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

<sup>8</sup> Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. <sup>9</sup> Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

<sup>10</sup> I rejoice in the Lord greatly that now at last you have revived your concern for me; indeed, you were concerned for me, but had no opportunity to show it. <sup>11</sup> Not that I am referring to being in need; for I have learned to be content with whatever I have. <sup>12</sup> I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have plenty. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being well-fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need. <sup>13</sup> I can do all things through him who strengthens me. <sup>14</sup> In any case, it was kind of you to share my distress.

THE WORD OF THE LORD.

THANKS BE TO GOD.

**SERMON** *Bumper Sticker Theology: I Can Do All Things Through a Verse Taken Out of Context*

Pastor Denise Stone

**HYMN:** *Sing to God, with Joy and Gladness (Psalm 147)*

GTG #657

Refrain:

Sing to God with joy and gladness,  
hymns and psalms of gratitude;  
with the voice of praise discover  
that to worship God is good.

Verse 3

God, with clouds, the sky has curtained,  
thus ensuring rain shall fall;  
earth, responding, grows to order  
food for creatures great and small.

1 God unites his scattered people,  
gathers those who wandered far,  
heals the hurt and broken spirits,  
tending every wound and scar.

Refrain

Refrain

Verse 4

God's discernment never favours  
strength or speed to lift or move;  
God delights in those who fear him,  
trusting in his steadfast love.

Verse 2

Such is God's great power and wisdom  
none can calculate or tell;  
keen is God to ground the wicked  
and with humble folk to dwell.

Refrain

Refrain

## HOLY COMMUNION

### Invitation to Communion:

The Holy Spirit draws us together as one family in Christ Jesus, and feeds us on the gospel of salvation. Come to the table with your siblings in Christ and share in the true bread and wine in remembrance of him. All is made ready for you here.

### The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving<sup>vii</sup>

May the One who works wonders be with you!

#### And also with you!

People of God, listen to the One who teaches you life.

#### Unlock our hearts, O God, that we might hear you.

Children of God, you are called to servanthood.

#### We sing praises to the One who fills us with compassion, so we might know the deepest needs of those around us.

Silencing the noise of chaos,  
God of wonder and might,  
you created the heavens and earth,  
your steadfast love poured out  
into the oceans brimming with life,  
your joy flowing into every valley of hope.

Your heart melted with love  
as you created us in your image,  
so we might live with you  
in that garden of peace.

But we exchanged your dreams  
for the seductive lies of death,  
so we might graze in sin's fallow fields.

You longed to bring us back,  
making your gentleness known  
in prophets throughout the ages.

When we continued to refuse  
your invitation to your heart,  
you sent Jesus to us,  
to round up all of your children  
and lead them home to you.

So, with those who stood at the foot of mountains,  
and those who continue on the journey,  
we lift our hearts and voices,  
praising your name forever.

#### **Sanctus**                      **Holy, Holy, Holy**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

GTG#552

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

We praise your name, Catering God,  
remembering your acts of grace.  
Loving us with a passion beyond compare,  
Jesus came to fill us with compassion.  
Aware of our hunger for hope,  
he feeds us with your steadfast grace.  
Understanding death's grip on us,

he came to defeat it's power,  
that we could live with you forever.

As we rejoice in the feast you provide,  
as we remember the sacrifice, death and resurrection of  
our Lord,  
we proclaim that mystery we call faith:

#### **Memorial Acclamation**                      **Christ Has Died; Christ Is Risen**

**Christ has died; Christ is risen;  
Christ will come again.**

**Christ has died; Christ is risen;  
Christ will come again.**

GTG#553

In your gentleness and wonder,  
God of all joy,  
pour out your Holy Spirit on us,  
and the gifts of your Table.  
As the bread of life  
not only feeds us,  
but makes us one as Christ's Body,  
may we bring healing

to our broken world.  
As the cup of grace  
not only refreshes us  
but unites us in the Spirit of service,  
may we go forth to be  
a river of righteousness  
flowing to those who live  
in oppression and hopelessness.

And when we gather at the Table  
you prepare for us in glory,  
when we feast with all  
our sisters and brothers

from every time and place,  
we will join our voices  
and praise you forever,  
God in Community, Holy in One.

**Amen**

GTG#554

**Amen, amen, amen.**

### **Words of Institution**

On the night in which he gave himself for us  
Jesus took bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying,  
"Take and eat; this is my body."

In the same way, after the supper he took the cup,  
blessed it with thanks and gave it to them, saying,  
"Drink of this, all of you. This is my blood,  
poured out for you and for many, in a new Covenant,  
which is the forgiveness of sin."

As long as we break this bread and share this cup  
we remember his death and resurrection, until he comes again.

### **Communion**

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

**HYMN:**        *Come to the Table of Grace*

GTG #507

1 Come to the table of grace.  
Come to the table of grace.  
This is God's table; it's not yours or mine.  
Come to the table of grace.

4 Come to the table of hope.  
Come to the table of hope.  
This is God's table; it's not yours or mine.  
Come to the table of hope.

2 Come to the table of peace.  
Come to the table of peace.  
This is God's table; it's not yours or mine.  
Come to the table of peace.

5 Come to the table of joy.  
Come to the table of joy.  
This is God's table; it's not yours or mine.  
Come to the table of joy.

3 Come to the table of love.  
Come to the table of love.  
This is God's table; it's not yours or mine.  
Come to the table of love.

### **Prayer after Communion**

Lord, as today we take this bread and this cup we remember your sacrifice. You came humbly to this earth to serve, and to give your life as a ransom for many. Your body was broken, your blood was poured out. You were mocked and beaten and spat upon. You suffered the weight of sin on your shoulders.

This was the culmination of your redemptive plan. The moment when you would die so that you could conquer sin and death. Waiting for the day you would rise in the glory of the resurrection. Thank you Lord for your sacrifice which allowed us to be wholly united with Him.

All honor, and glory is yours. Amen.<sup>viii</sup>

### **\* BENEDICTION**

You have received blessing upon blessing from the Lord. Now go into the world offering hope and peace to all people you meet. Be involved in justice and healing ministries in the name of the Lord. Go in peace, AMEN.

**\* CLOSING HYMN:** *Blest Be the Tie*

GTG #306, v.1

Blest be the tie that binds  
our hearts in Christian love.  
The fellowship of kindred minds  
is like to that above.

**POSTLUDE**

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **NOTES FOR SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**For Online Worship:** Please use the comment section of Facebook to share your Joys or Concerns.  
You may also email Pastor Denise at [pastordenisestone@gmail.com](mailto:pastordenisestone@gmail.com).

### **SPECIAL INVITATION FROM NORTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7, 2023**

North Presbyterian Church in Elmira is having their last monthly  
Wednesday Evening Service with Communion on Wednesday, June 7, at 7:00 PM, in the sanctuary.  
It's open to everyone and the AC should be on (if needed).

### **SPECIAL CALLED BUSINESS MEETING, JUNE 11, 2023**

We will have a special called Business Meeting following the Service on June 11<sup>th</sup>  
to approve a Proposal from Session regarding staffing and compensation.  
A copy of this Proposal was emailed to you this week.  
Paper copies are available at the back of the Sanctuary.

### **CHURCH FELLOWSHIP MEAL – JUNE 25<sup>TH</sup>**

We will have a Potluck Fellowship Meal following the Service on June 25<sup>th</sup> in Fellowship Hall (*Church House*).  
A main dish, dessert and drinks will be provided.  
We ask that you bring a dish to pass and your own plates and utensils.

### **PUT THESE ON YOUR SUMMER CALENDAR**

July 2 – Rev. Aaron Frank (and the members of Horseheads First Presbyterian Church) will be coming to Big Flats  
to lead the Worship Service. We will have a special Coffee Hour to celebrate Worshipping together.

July 9 – Big Flats First Presbyterian Church is invited to go to Elmira First Presbyterian Church to join in the  
Worship Service there **at 9:30 a.m.** with their new Pastor, Rev. Lynn Rubier-Capron (and Rehana Stanley will be  
hosting a special Coffee Hour following the Service).

July 30 – is our next Fifth Sunday Serve (*watch for more information as this date gets closer*).

August 13 – Big Flats First Presbyterian Church will be going to Horseheads First Presbyterian Church **at 9:30  
a.m.** for Pastor Denise to lead the Service there.

CLLI License Numbers: for music – 20207114; for streaming – 20207121. OneLicense Number: A-738210.

*Holy God, We Praise Thy Name*

German Title: Grosser Gott, wir loben dich

Translator: Clarence A. Walworth

Author (attributed to): Ignace Franz

Tune Information Title: GROSSER GOTT (11171)

Harmonizer: Johann Gottfried Schicht

Copyright: Public Domain

*God unites his scattered people*

Title: Sing to God, with Joy and Gladness

Author: John L. Bell

Copyright: © 1993 WGRG, Iona Community (admin. GIA

Publications, Inc.)

*Come to the Table of Grace*

Author: Barbara Hamm (2008)

Copyright: © 2008 Hope Publishing Company

*Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow*

Author: Thomas Ken (1674)

Copyright: Public Domain

*Gloria Patri*

Tune Information

Title: GLORIA PATRI (Greatorex)

Composer: H. W. Greatorex (1851)

Copyright: Public Domain

*Blest Be the Tie That Binds*

Author: John Fawcett (1782)

Tune Information Title: DENNIS (Nägeli)

Arranger: Lowell Mason

Composer: Hans Georg Nägeli

Copyright: Public Domain

*First Presbyterian Church  
of Big Flats, New York*

*Pastor, Rev. Denise Stone*

*Director of Music, Valerie Stone*

*95 Main Street, P.O. Box 454*

*Big Flats, New York 14814*

*Church Office: 607-562-8048*

*Pastor Denise's Email: [pastordenisestone@gmail.com](mailto:pastordenisestone@gmail.com)*

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<sup>i</sup> Unless otherwise noted, Service elements are from <https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/1722/worship-connection-october-11-2020>.

<sup>ii</sup> <http://www.revjedi.com/worship-writing/2017/5/27/prayers-of-call-to-confession-confession-assurance-and-peace#:~:text=Knowing%20that%20God%20will%20protect,we%20are%20called%20to%20be>.

<sup>iii</sup> Adapted from [http://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/unitedchurchofchrist/legacy\\_url/3825/offering-invitations-for-ordinary-time.pdf?1418427555](http://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/unitedchurchofchrist/legacy_url/3825/offering-invitations-for-ordinary-time.pdf?1418427555).

<sup>iv</sup> <https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/1762/worship-elements-october-11-2020>.

<sup>v</sup> <https://thepastorsworkshop.com/prayers-for-illumination-on-revelation/>.

<sup>vi</sup> New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

<sup>vii</sup> Communion Liturgy adapted from: <https://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/search?q=Philippians+4>.

<sup>viii</sup> <https://justdisciple.com/christian-prayer-communion/>.